



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

20 April 2016

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1547, "An Act To Facilitate Access to Naloxone Hydrochloride."

This bill would allow pharmacists to dispense naloxone to practically anybody who asks for it. Naloxone does not truly save lives; it merely extends them until the next overdose. Creating a situation where an addict has a heroin needle in one hand and a shot of naloxone in the other produces a sense of normalcy and security around heroin use that serves only to perpetuate the cycle of addiction.

To truly fight the heroin crisis, we must get at the root causes of the problem. We must ramp up our interdiction efforts against those bringing this poison into our state. We must expand education and prevention efforts to warn young people especially about the dangers of addiction. And we must address opioid prescribing practices that have opened the gateway to heroin addiction.

For these reasons, I return LD 1547 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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